

It was Billy's positive, mental attitude that helped the Delta Eagles though the season, the playoff's and win the coveted place in Hoosier basketball history by advancing to the Final-Four. Today, I'd like to join the community of Munice, the State of Indiana and the Delta Eagles in praising Billy Lynch for his leadership.

In Indiana, Hoosier's hysteria for high school basketball has a special place in the hearts of many. Indeed, Billy Lynch's performance and contribution to the Eagles winning season has captured the hearts of many in Delaware County.

Billy Lynch has made so many of us so very proud.

RESTORING TRUST IN
GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, for most Americans, the November elections and their aftermath clearly demonstrate the need for campaign finance reform. Unprecedented amounts of soft money were spent, special interests seemed to have played a disproportionate role, and there seemed to be no way to police the system. And now, very day seems to bring a new allegation of improper fundraising activities. The cumulative effect of these problems and the recent allegations of fundraising impropriety undermines the people's faith in their government. In my view, the only way to begin to restore that faith is to take a hard look at the problems with our existing campaign finance system and develop sensible changes to address them.

Today, I am introducing the Restoring Trust in Government Act. It makes some specific changes that I think address these concerns and that I believe are long overdue. The bill reduces special interest influence, curbs soft money, expands disclosure, eliminates undue incumbent advantages, and, in general, restores faith in our political system.

To curb special interests, it bans the increasingly influential activities of Political Action Committees [PAC's]. It will also reduce the influence of outside groups by requiring House candidates to raise 60 percent of funds in their own district, and Senate candidates to raise 60 percent of their funds from within their own State. It's an idea based on a simple premise—if you're going to represent the people of your area, you shouldn't take most of your money from outside special interest groups.

The bill places significantly tighter restrictions on the use of so-called soft money given to national political parties. It would also require increased disclosure of soft money donations. And, it would address recent concerns about improper use of Federal property for political fundraising by making the solicitation of soft money on Federal property a criminal offense. The bill also clearly prohibits political contributions by noncitizens to eliminate any trace of foreign influence on our elections.

Finally, the bill levels the playing field by reducing built-in incumbent advantages and puts some teeth in the important enforcement responsibility of the Federal Election Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a new campaign finance system that addresses the 1996 soft money abuses, curbs special interest influence, requires disclosure and given the FEC the authority they need to better police the system. This bill represents a comprehensive approach that addresses each of these problems. I urge my colleagues to join with me in making these commonsense changes to restore trust in our campaign finance system and in our government. Let's make real campaign finance reform a priority this year.

REMEMBERING ALBERT SHANKER

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to remember Mr. Albert Shanker, president of American Federation of Teachers. I considered him one of the better educators in the country. He demanded excellence from the teachers and insisted that teachers demand excellence from students. Mr. Shanker was very interested in helping all students by holding them to high academic standards.

Mr. Speaker, in my mind Mr. Shanker was a very important advocate for a quality education system in this country. He would always put the needs of the students first, and constantly sought to challenge them. Over the years I always appreciated his honesty and forthrightness. He will be missed.

PSCA COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute three individuals who have performed a great service to the people of Pennsylvania. Gene James, Susan Gill, and Jeanne Brimmer have performed above and beyond the call in their field of professional school counseling. They truly deserve the designation of Counselor of the Year at their respective levels.

These three will be honored at the Pennsylvania School Counselors' Association [PSCA] Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme of this year's conference, "Navigating the Rivers of Change," is especially appropriate considering the struggle that each and every person involved in the education of today's adolescents must face. Susan, Jeanne, and Gene have shown that they are adept in navigating the perilous waterways of their life and steering them in right direction. They along with all of the members of the PSCA demonstrate the visionary and bold leadership needed to counsel the youth of today.

And so I urge my colleagues to rise and join in the recognition of these people who devote their lives to helping others. They should be commended for their excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEMPLE
BETH EL

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate a milestone in the history of Bakersfield, CA, one that is of great importance.

The Temple Beth El has been with us now for 50 years and with each passing decade its strength and enduring qualities have grown. It is fitting that with this anniversary we pause and reflect upon the many miles traveled and obstacles overcome. We look back and remember that the founding of Beth El coincided with the end of one of the saddest times in human history—World War II. Indeed, some of the veterans of that war were founding members of Beth El. I wonder if those founding families ever imagined that their small temple in Bakersfield would someday blossom into the revered institution Beth El is today.

Temple Beth El has been ecumenical in reaching out to churches in the area, thereby strengthening the intangible ties that bind the fabric of Bakersfield. This task, while no small deed, has opened eyes and minds that were once closed and diluted the misunderstanding that flows through some, making Bakersfield shine more as a city.

The contributions of Beth El to the community are numerous—the charities, the food drives, the commitment. One goal Beth El members have continually pursued is to make life better for others. This congregation has achieved that goal in many ways.

They have given us hope for a better, fairer, safer, more tolerant, and caring world. As we approach the end of the century and look forward to the next, the current generations of members of Beth El are sure to pave the road to the future by continuing their efforts to make Bakersfield a better community. Again, I congratulate the congregation and look forward to Temple Beth El's many anniversaries in years to come.

HONORING THE JOLIET FEDERATION
OF MUSICIANS ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of the many members of the Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 as they celebrated their 100th anniversary on Tuesday, April 8, 1997.

Tonight they recognize the past and present members who have entertained the members of their communities as they performed at area free concerts, parades, and dances.

The members of the Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 have helped direct the musical aspirations of their students as they have taught music lessons and served as grade school, junior high school, senior high school and college band directors.

Also being honored for their many years of commitment to the organization are those members of the organization who have served